



News Release

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For Immediate Release:

Public Safety Comes First On Bass Lake Ranger District Campgrounds

North Fork, CA. February 10, 2017 - The unprecedented tree mortality in the Sierra National Forest has created a high number of hazard trees within the Bass Lake Ranger District's campgrounds. In recognition of how important a role these campgrounds are to the community, county, valley and beyond, select campgrounds will continue to operate under a reservation system for the entire season; others will remain closed while the District removes hazard trees. Once work has been completed in a closed campground, it will be reopened and added to the reservation system for visitor use. Public health and safety has been and will continue to be a priority.

Currently the reservation system is open for the Spring Cove Campground. The Wishon Boat ramp is also available. Forest crews are currently continuing work in these campgrounds as weather permits. Due to the number of hazard trees, the following campgrounds on the Bass Lake District will not be available for visitor use in 2017: *Rock Creek, Fish Creek, Mammoth Pool, Crane Valley, and Placer campgrounds*. Camping or visiting these recreation sites is prohibited by Forest Order (No. 05-15-00-16-14) for the safety of forest visitors (16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b)). At this time, the Forks Campground will fill those reservations already confirmed for campgrounds where hazard tree removal efforts are still taking place.

Information on tree mortality can be found by visiting www.fs.usda.gov/main/catreemortality. Please check with our campground operator California Land Management (<http://www.clm-services.com/>), and the campground reservation site (<http://recreation.gov>) webpages for updated campground information.

For further information regarding the Sierra National Forest and recreational activities please contact the High Sierra Ranger District office in Prather, Calif. at 559-855-5355; the Bass Lake Ranger District in North Fork, Calif. at 559-877-2218; or the Forest Supervisors Office in Clovis, Calif. at 559-297-0706, or go online to www.fs.usda.gov/sierra

It is the Sierra National Forest's goal to provide a safe and enjoyable camping experience for all visitors.

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The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.